

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A system comprising:

5 a release storage area for storing files and directories related to a current release of a released software product;

a second storage area for storing files and directories associated with modifications of the current release;

10 a software release information manager coupled to the release storage area and coupled to the second storage area and adapted to identify differences between files and directories in the release storage area and files and directories in the second storage area.

15 2. The system of claim 1 wherein the software release information manager further comprises:

a scan element to determine information regarding files and directories located in the second storage area.

20 3. The system of claim 2 wherein the software release information manager further comprises:

a database coupled to the scan element for storing the information regarding files and directories located in the second storage area.

25 4. The system of claim 1 wherein the software release information manager further comprises:

a verify element to compare information associated with files and directories in the release storage area with information associated with the files and directories in the second storage area to identify differences between the compared information.

30 5. The system of claim 1 wherein the software release information manager further comprises:

an install element to copy files and directories from the second storage area to the release storage area.

6. The system of claim 1 wherein the second storage area is a build storage area used by a developer to modify or create files and/or directories for the software product.

5 7. The system of claim 1 wherein the identified differences may include one or more of: file existence, file naming, file ownership information, file access control information, file contents, directory existence, directory naming, directory ownership information, and directory access control information.

10 8. A method for software release management of a software product, the method comprising the steps of:

identifying a build storage area having development files in a hierarchically structured development directory;

15 gathering build information regarding development files and directories in the build storage area;

identifying a release storage area having release files in a hierarchically structured release directory;

gathering release information regarding the release files and directories in the release storage area; and

20 reporting to a user regarding differences between the release information and the build information wherein the differences include one or more of: file existence, file naming, file ownership information, file access control information, file contents, directory existence, directory naming, directory ownership information, and directory access control information.

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9. The method of claim 8 further comprising:

storing the gathered build information in a database; and

storing the gathered release information in a database,

wherein the step of reporting further comprises accessing the database to compare the build

30 information stored therein and the release information stored therein to identify differences therebetween.

10. The method of claim 8 further comprising:

installing a copy of the release files and directories in a destination storage area to install a current release of the software product.

11. The method of claim 8 further comprising:

5 copying build files from the build area to the release area to generate a new release.

12. The method of claim 11 further comprising:

installing a copy of the release files and directories in a destination area to install the new release of the software product.

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13. A method for software release management comprising the steps of:

scanning a build storage area that contains modified files and directories for a software product;

generating an inventory file from build information derived from the step of scanning and

15 regarding the modified files and directories in the build storage area;

verifying the build information in the inventory file with release information regarding a current release of files and directories in a release storage area; and

installing modified files and directories in the release storage area to create a new release of files and directories in the release storage area.

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14. The method of claim 13 wherein the release information is stored in a release database.

15. The method of claim 14 further comprising:

updating information in the release database from the build information in the inventory file

25 in response to the step of installing modified files and directories.

16. The method of claim 13 wherein the step of verifying comprises:

identifying the differences between the build storage area and the release storage area; and presenting the identified differences to a user to permit correction of any identified

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anomalies by the user.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein the differences may include one or more of: file

existence, file naming, file ownership information, file access control information,

file contents, directory existence, directory naming, directory ownership information, and directory access control information.